

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

LUSAKA, MARCH 17 -- THE ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS DRAWN SHARP REACTION HERE FROM THE PARTY-OWNED TIMES OF ZAMBIA NEWSPAPER WHICH IN AN EDITORIAL ACCUSES PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN OF HABOURING EXPANSIONIST AIMS AGAINST JORDAN AND LEBANON.

"ISRAEL'S INVASION OF LEBANON AND THE RUTHLESS AND CRUEL SLAUGHTER OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS BY ITS SOLDIERS WILL SHOCK EVEN THOSEWHO MAY HAVE SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE PLEAS OF THE JEWISH SETTLERS THERE TO BE LEFT IN PEACE," THE TIMES SAID.

WHAT SHARPLY DIFFERENTIATES THIS "VIOLENT REACTION" BY ISRAEL, FROM HER PREVIOUS BORDER RAIDS, THE PAPER NOTED, "IS THE ARROGANT RABID NATIONALISM WHICH NOW PERMEATES ISRAELI POLITICS." THE FANATICISM, CHARTED THE TIMES, IS THE OFFSHOOT OF MR. BEGIN'S ELECTION TO POWER.

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"IT BODES ILL FOR THE EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM THAT MR. BEGIN SEEMS TO HAVE LEARNED NOTHING AND FORGOTTEN NOTHING SINCE THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL," THE EDITORIAL SAID.

MR. BEGIN'S POLICIES SINCE HE CAME TO POWER, IN THE VIEW OF

THE TIMES, ALL INDICATE THAT HE "HABORS EXPANSIONIST AIMS AGAINST JORDAN AND LEBANON. HE HAS SPURNED THE STATESMANLIKE PEACE OVERTURES FROM PRESIDENT SADAT".

THE TIMES NOTES: "IN A MAJOR POLICY BREAKTHROUGH LAST YEAR, THE EGYPTIAN LEADER CONCEDED THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AS A JEWISH STATE IN WHAT WAS UNTIL 1948 ARAB TERRITORY. YET BEGIN HAS COLONISED THE WEST BANK."

WENT ON THE EDITORIAL: "NOW HE HAS LAUNCHED AN INVASION INTO LEBANON WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENSION OF OCCUPYING VAST AREAS OF THAT COUNTRY. APART FROM A FEW ANODYNE SPEECHES, HE HAS GIVEN NO PRACTICAL INDICATION THAT HE EVEN DESIRES PEACE."

THE NEWSPAPER URGES THAT THE ISRAELIS MUST BE CONDEMNED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS AND FORCED TO WITHDRAW. IT SUGGESTS THAT AN EFFECTIVE ARMS EMBARGO MUST ALSO BE PLACED ON THEM, ADDING: "THIS IS UP TO THE AMERICANS TO EFFECT."

THE TIMES EDITORIAL DREW PARALLES BETWEEN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THE SITUATION PREVAILING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: "IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT FREE AFRICAN NATIONS LOOK ASKANCE ON ISRAEL'S ATTITUDES. IN TOO MANY RESPECTS THEY RESEMBLE THOSE OF THE SETTLERS IN RHODESIA AND THE WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA."

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IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES, THE PAPER WENT ON, SETTLERS FROM EUROPE USED FORCE TO CHASE COMMUNITIES FROM LAND THAT THEY HAD LIVED ON FOR GENERATIONS. "ALL THREE CLAIM TO BE UPHOLDERS OF 'CIVILIZED VALUES' AND AT THE SAME TIME USE THE MOST PRIMITIVE BRUTALITY TO DEFEND THEIR WAY OF LIFE. THEY CLAIM THE RIGHT TO VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES TO FIGHT ON OTHER PEOPLE'S SOIL."

THE TIMES CONCLUDED WITH THESE THOUGHTS; "THE ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AS A STATE BY MOST OF THE WORLD COULD NOW RAPIDLY BE WITHDRAWN IF SHE DOES NOT CURB THE FANATICAL EXPANSIONIST CHAUVINISM OF HER PRESENT LEADERS. DECENT WORLD OPINION CANNOT ACCEPT THE CLAIMS BY ALIEN GROUPS TO USE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY TO ENSLAVE PEOPLE OF OTHER NATIONS." ITEM USIS LUSAKA. O'BRIEN

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## Message Attributes

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